

from government. The petition was referred to the House and the Senate Judiciary Committees and they investigated the issue for a full year to see if it would be possible to separate Christian principles from government. After one year they came back with the report saying, "Had the people during the Revolution had a suspicion of any attempt to wage war against Christianity, that revolution would have been strangled in its cradle."

And then, nearly 100 years later, in 1947, in a case known as *Everson v. the Board of Education*, the Supreme Court took a different angle on the church/state issue and their ruling was this. "The first amendment has erected a wall of separation between church and state which must be kept high and impregnable." And that was the first time the original understanding of the separation of church and state, presented by our founding fathers in the constitution, had been reversed. It was originally intended to protect the church from the state, and now it is intended to keep the church from influencing the state. It was an absolute, about face, 180 degree reversal from what our forefathers intended.

And since 1962, which was the first ruling to officially separate religious principles from government, in our schools and other areas, since that time, when the high and impregnable wall was erected to keep religious principles out of our government, teenage pregnancies for girls between 10-14 has increased over 600%. Sexually transmitted diseases skyrocketed. SAT scores in school went down for 18 straight years. And violent crimes increased over 600%. George Washington put it well when he said, "If you remove religious principles, you will lose morality in America."

The Bible says that government and its leaders are accountable first and foremost to God.

IV

I don't have a lot of time to cover the fourth point in your outline, except to say that all of us, who are citizens of this country are commanded by God to submit to the government, regardless of who we are or how much money we have or what position we fill. And the only time we're given permission not to submit to government is if government commands us or forbids us to do that which is contrary to the word of God. And if you want a proof text for that, it's found in Acts 5:29.

We're also told to pay taxes. Not only did Paul write it in Romans 13, but Jesus said it in Matthew 22, as we heard earlier in the service. Loopholes may be legal, but cheating isn't.

And as a child is called to give honor and respect to parents and an employee to an employer, so citizens are called to show honor and respect to those who govern.

V

And fifth, what does Romans 13 say about the specific role of we who are Christian citizens? In verses 9 and 10 it says, "Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to its neighbors. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." You want to know how to help the government? Don't add to their work load. If, in all that you do, you're attempting to respond to the needs of those around you, treating them with love, whether that be the person next door or the guy in traffic next to you, or the person at work who wronged you—if you are treating them with Christian love—then the government doesn't have to worry about you and their job becomes much easier.

And Christian citizens, also, because they, or at least they should have a clear understanding of the word of God—have a respon-

sibility to keep the government and law makers in check, when it comes to issues on which God has clearly spoken. We cannot remain silent. And if we do, we have no right to complain.

And Christian citizens have been instructed in Paul's first letter to Timothy to pray for those in authority over us—which we'll be doing a little later in the service.

CONCLUSION

Some concluding thoughts: Benjamin Franklin said, "We need God to be our friend, not our enemy." You've seen what's happened to our country since we began to remove God's influence from our land.

To you, who are here today as our governmental officials, I want to thank you for taking the time to be here. Some of you are members of our congregation and would be here anyway, but that's not the case for a number of you. Some of you, like Congressman McIntosh have traveled a long way to be with us today and we thank you for making the effort. And I want to encourage all of you who are our elected officials to be bold, courageous leaders, not blown by the whims of what may appear to be popular opinion, or political correctness, but directed by what is right.

Secondly, I want to say especially to our governmental leaders, that the church is the very best friend government has. Thomas Jefferson said it first when he said, "The reason Christianity is the best friend of government is because Christianity is the only religion in the world that deals with the heart." The threat of punishment is sometimes effective and rehabilitation has a purpose but unless you change the heart, you won't do much to affect behavior. And the Church, the Body of Christ, is committed to affecting hearts.

Thirdly, to our public servants, I want to encourage you to stay close to God. In light of what we've seen today from Romans 13, I don't know how you can do your job if you don't. If you're from our community and don't have a church home, then please know that you are always welcome in our midst. Be reminded that you have a God who loves you, just as you are, even when others might be on your back and constantly criticizing. You can't be in any position of leadership and not have someone taking shots at you. But God loves you.

He is a God who came to be your servant, nearly 2000 years ago, as He paid for your offenses and your sins as well as those of the rest of us, on a splintered, wooden cross, and who offers you not only his love, but also his full and complete forgiveness.

And to the majority of us who hold no public government office, but who are citizens of this blessed land, we need to understand, that if people are to be put into office, men and women who will stand firm on the issues on which God has spoken, and whose first concern is obedience to the one to whom they're accountable, then you and I must participate in the process, at every level. We need to make our views known and to exercise that privilege that we've been given in this country.

May God bless you, our elected and appointed officials. May God bless us as a community. And may God bless America.

Please remain seated, as David Florine comes forward to lead us in a time of prayer and confession.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF LATINO/AS CONTRA SIDA-LATINOS AGAINST AIDS

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of Latino/as Contra SIDA-Latinos Against AIDS in the First Congressional District of Connecticut on September 27, 1996.

LCS was founded in 1986 by concerned Latino volunteers who recognized the dire need for specialized services for Latino/as individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. Through education and prevention efforts for adults, children and youth as well as HIV precounseling, testing, assistance, advocacy and case management services, LCS has served over 5,000 individuals in the Greater Hartford area.

With a mission of preventing the further spread of HIV/AIDS among the Latino community in Greater Hartford and enhancing the quality of life of those affected by the HIV disease, LCS has become a major collaborator of health care services.

LCS is comprised of a dedicated and energetic board of directors and a base of community volunteers who continue the significant efforts of its founders: Hector Seda, Roberto Negron, Gladys Capo and Myrna Vargas.

I applaud the work of Latino/as SIDA during the past 10 years and offer my sincerest gratitude and hope for LCS's continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote 403 on House Concurrent Resolution 120 I was unavoidably detained on an airplane flight that was badly delayed by mechanical problems and by weather conditions. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes." I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD immediately following rollcall vote No. 403.

A THANK YOU TO THE HABER FAMILY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce you to a true American family who has sacrificed and served our great Nation. Eight of Charles and Anna Haber's sons all proudly served in World War II between 1936-47.

The story of the Haber family is one of two people immigrating to the United States, meeting, and overcoming hardships, to live out the American dream. In the early 1900's, Charles and Anna each left Czechoslovakia to come to

the United States. However, they did not know each other at the time. They both happened to settle in a mining town in Pennsylvania which is where they met. They soon were married and had a large family of nine sons and three daughters.

However, the story does not end there. Tragically, in 1928, there was a terrible explosion in the coal mining town of Mather, PA, which killed 211 miners. Charles, aged 42, and his brother, George, aged 21, were among those casualties.

Determined to go on with her life, Anna took her children to the Pittsburgh area to live. However, before this move, two of her daughters had died from illnesses during childhood.

Once World War II began, eight of the Haber sons entered the military to fight to preserve democracy. Paul and Peter served in the U.S. Army, while John served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Andrew, Michael, Joseph, Steve, and Frank all served their country in the U.S. Navy.

Charles and Anna Haber's son, Frank, and his wife, Lillian, have resided in Indiana's First Congressional District for 44 years. They have three children, Charles, Maureen, and Colleen, and seven grandchildren. Frank and Lillian are proud that their oldest grandchild, Jennifer, is carrying on the family tradition as a student at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

Mr. Speaker, the Habers' service to our great country is a shining example of one family's dedication and valor. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring this fine family for such patriotic heroism.

WAY TO GO: PACKAGING OUR CENTURY AS A PARTING GIFT TO THE NEXT

HON. BILL BARRETT

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I have received the enclosed statement made by Retired Colonel Barney Oldfield, a distinguished Nebraskan, during his address to the Nebraska American Legion Convention. I encourage my colleagues to pay heed to his remarks, which reflect his wisdom and experience.

"WAY TO GO: PACKAGING OUR CENTURY AS A PARTING GIFT TO THE NEXT!"

Nebraska Friends: When Commander Bob Zersen's invitation came to join you for this 78th annual convention of the Nebraska Department of the American Legion here in Grand Island, my first thought was whether I should check to see if the statute of limitations for suspicions of misconduct had run out! Still apprehensive, I came in last night under cover of darkness.

What troubled me was a "paper trail" thing. I've just had a letter from Lori Cox-Paul of the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln which refers to a Grand Island "happening" away back in 1940 . . . asking for an explanation.

That letter said:

"We are assembling an exhibit we are going to call: Believe it or Not: The Lives and Times of Vada and Col. Barney Oldfield! In our researching finds is a photo of Vada discovering a nightgown in your suitcase on the Grand Island Union Pacific station plat-

form! The note on the picture says '. . . they put a nightgown in my suitcase for Vada to find on my return . . .'. Do you remember the circumstances behind it? Can you tell me where you were coming from? Had you been covering a movie premiere?"

How about that for openers?

If their researching is surfacing things like that . . . I thought . . . what other things of surprising nature are apt to be in store for me? It seemed to me that only the White House has to contend with things like that.

My wife Vada's parents lived here then, highly respected pillars in this community. Some of my warmest remembrances I have . . . are holidays and family gatherings here. It was on a Union Pacific train out of here that Vada took to enlist as one of the original WAACs, forerunner of the Women's Army Corps in which she was to serve as a teletype operator in the Communications section of Hq 12th Air Force, crossing North Africa, Sicily and Italy. With two years overseas behind her, here she had come to wait for me at war's end when I returned from Berlin with the 82nd Airborne Division. I'd run the successful campaign to avoid its deactivation and saw it achieve the extra dividend of selection to do the Victory March in New York on January 12, 1946 representing all the 16,000,000 men and women who had served in WW II. It was on that same Union Pacific platform at 3 a.m. one morning that we had our "family reunion." She never said anything about that photo in 1940 which was all right with me.

While I'm not running for office . . . requiring the publishing of my tax returns and other confessions . . . that 1940 escapade started with a telegram which came to me as the Lincoln Journal and Star's movie editor and columnist. It said I was invited to the premiere of the latest Errol Flynn movie, Virginia City. It was about that old mining town perched several thousand feet above Reno, Nevada. It said they were running a special Union Pacific train from the east and would pick me up in Grand Island. That eastern train would meet a special train from Hollywood with movie columnists and Warner Brothers stars on board in Reno for the big promotional hoopla. Vada and I drove over from Lincoln and she was going to visit her parents while I was off "just doing my job", as they say. She would be there to meet me when I returned and we'd drive back to Lincoln.

Do you get the picture?

That 15-car special train . . . loaded with roistering newspaper guys was the locale of endless practical jokes to relieve the boredom of that long train ride. They had seen Vada when I boarded . . . and two days later when we were returning . . . somewhere in Wyoming as I recall . . . they clustered around me asking me if she was going to meet me when we arrived in the middle of the night . . . around 2 a.m. the next morning. Dumb guy that I was . . . I told them she would. Several said they would like to meet her. As that special train roared eastward in the nighttime blackness . . . I noted with some vague relief that most seemed to tire and wander off to their berths and get some sleep.

The train braked and stopped in Grand Island and I jumped off thinking I was alone. Not so. Off with me came a photographer from Cleveland, a New York columnist and a Boston editor. They said this nightgown had fallen out of my bag! It would have taken three of Vada to fill it. The flashbulbs popped in the night. After that they all re-boarded, the train pulled out. As we walked along the platform to our car, Vada said: "I'm glad they had their little joke . . . but even gladder it was in the middle of the night when my parents and all their friends were asleep in their beds!"

That practical joke had worked so well on me as the fall guy, they did it to two others enroute to Chicago with the same nightgown. The cameraman got off in Cleveland, developed the pictures and sent them along with the negatives to the butts of the pranks. But as pranksters will . . . just before he got off the train . . . he stuffed the nightgown in the Warner Brothers souvenir presskit of the New York columnist. When the New Yorker got home . . . was regaling his wife with stories of the trip . . . while unpacking . . . out fell the nightgown! How much better could it be? He told her the truth about it, and she didn't believe him!

Live by the sword—die by the sword, right!

So much for reflection, what I'd like to chat with you about today is projection! Projection of our part of this remarkable 20th Century . . . the most fantastic century of all time. How lucky we were to have lived in it . . . and even luckier to have lived through it! It's now up to us to hand it off to the looming 21st Century and our inheritors . . . the great examples of courage, sacrifice and inspiration as a tribute to our friends who were lost along the way. They, too, were once wheels under the extraordinary country we've come to be.

Since awayback when . . . I've been aware of and applauded the many scholarships . . . large and small . . . provided by individuals and posts of the American Legion. As a young newspaperman I often went to Ed Boschult when old and crusty General John J. Pershing used to come to Lincoln to visit his sister, May. Pershing was a formidable and intimidating presence . . . didn't like newspapermen much . . . but Ed eased me in with the required tolerance for snippets of interviews. I don't know what his name on your scholarship means to those who win it, but he was a right guy to be so memorialized . . . for sure. Young people should be nudged beyond the monetary to be curious about what the name piggy-backed on it did . . . and why he does an outreach in this form for students of today.

While I have no quarrel with those who make money writing on military subjects . . . I have been writing on military subjects all my life . . . but have never felt comfortable pocketing the compensations. When your national American Legion magazine decided to do a three-parter on the 20th anniversary of the Battle of the Ardennes and assigned it to me . . . that check went to the University of Nebraska Foundation as part of the endowment for one of our ROTC scholarships. If one is lucky enough to live through wars others do not . . . that's reward enough.

The scholarship alternative has motivated us for a long time . . . perhaps because Vada and I are both veterans. To us scholarships have been the "best game in town." People often say: "Why are you so interested in scholarships when you have no kids?" Our response always is: "Who says we have no kids . . . you should read our Christmas mail!" It comes from all over the world . . . and in these bits of correspondence are statements about how crucial the scholarships' arrivals were for continuance of studies which led to careers now being pursued.

The US Census Bureau projects that by mid-21st Century . . . we will have grown from our 150,000,000 population of today to a nation of 400,000,000! Imagine the whopper problems which will be on their plates . . . and how much in the way of smarts will be required to cope. Accomplishing a more and better educated resources pool will call for a massive and sustained effort. Perhaps from us they can pick up on the merits of endowment over instant gratification if we have such things in place for them to guide on.

As we hand them our considerable bag of endowments . . . linking our evidences of